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PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION

98th Year MARCH, 1948 No. 3

LAYMEN'S SCHOOL

Ninety-seven laymen, representing twenty-six churches of our fellowship, gathered at the Pacific School of Religion on February 22 for the annual Laymen's School of Churchmanship. In addition to this number there were eight ministers who took part in the program, representing our national Boards, state Conference, and local churches. Harold T. Avery presided over the meeting, representing the Laymen's Fellowship.

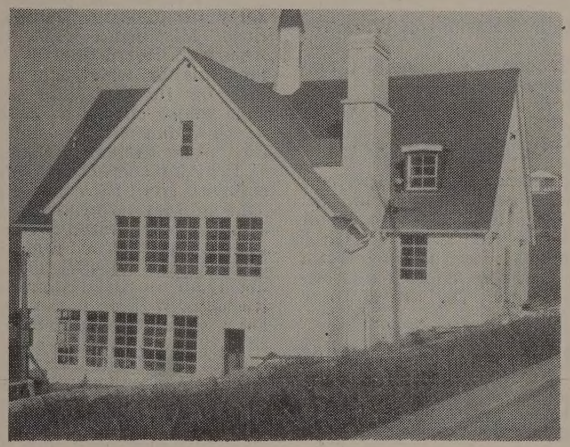
Following an inspiring devotional service led by President Ronald Bridges, Dr. Stanley U. North of the Extension Division of the Board of Home Missions gave an address on "Congregationalism from Coast to Coast." Using charts and statistics, he pointed out the losses in our church across the continent during the past 25 years, challenging the laymen to work with their ministers in strengthening our fellowship in the years to come. Dr. North also showed a map of the United States where new churches are being established and projected to meet the demands of changing population.

Following this major address, Bruce Gates of the Oakland Y.M.C.A. led in song, with Henry Snyder at the piano. Then the state Conference program was presented in three brief sketches by staff members, Sidney H. Buckham, William W. Meyer, and Harley H. Gill. The Centennial campaign for raising $100,000 for church extension and Cazadero was outlined by Superintendent Gill. With the close of the morning session, luncheon was served in Benton Hall by members of the North Congregational Church.

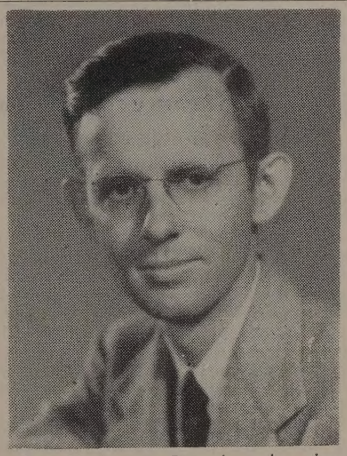
At 2:00 p.m. the delegates divided into five discussion groups, one unit giving consideration to Church Financing, and the other four tackling the problem: "How can we develop better team work between laymen and ministers?" The findings of all the groups were summarized in a panel discussion in which the chairmen took part, presided over by Herbert W. Hilker of San Mateo. The meeting closed with a splendid address by Rev. Elmer S. Freeman of the Commission of Evangelism and Devotional Life. Mr. Freeman called attention to the sincere desire of laymen and ministers to work closely together and stressed the importance of worship as a unifying experience.

PlymouthHouseDirector

Mr. Boardman Drobish has been appointed director of Plymouth House to serve during the interim between the departure of Rev. J. Ford Forsyth and the opening of the fall semester of the University of California. Mr. Drobish was student president of Plymouth House a year or two ago and is a graduate student. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Drobish of our Oroville church. The new students' banquet following the opening of the second semester was held the evening of March 5, the Plymouth mothers serving the dinner. Rev. Vere V. Loper spoke on "Self-Exploration."



The new Arlington Avenue Community Church (Congregational), at the corner of Arlington and Rincon in the unincorporated territory lying north of Berkeley, which was dedicated on Sunday, March 14. The building includes a large social hall and a beautiful parlor, either of which may be used for sanctuary, a large well-equipped kitchen, and four good-sized assembly rooms for church school, club activities, library, and play center. The total cost, including lot and furnishings, will be in excess of $80,000. There will be open house the entire week from March 14 to 21.



Rev. Herbert E. Dimock, under whose leadership Arlington Avenue Church came into being and the building has been erected.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—

March 28—Easter.

March 29-April 1—Interdenominational Conference on Town and Country Life, Davis, California.

April 16—Spring meeting of Federation of Congregational Women, Martinez.

April 20—Central Association, Angels Camp.

April 21—Sacramento Valley Association, Loomis.

April 22—Upper Boy Association, Antioch.

April 23—Redwood Empire Association, Sebastopol.

April 27—Santa Clara Association, Sunnyvale.

April 28—San Joaquin Valley Association, Pilgrim Church, Fresno.

April 30-May 2—German Conference, Sanger.

May 4—Bay Association.

June 17-24—General Council of Congregational Christian Churches, Oberlin, Ohio.

October 22, 23, 24—State Conference, San Mateo.

Moderator Speaks

Dr. Albert W. Palmer, Moderator of our General Council, and former pastor of our Plymouth Church, Oakland, was recently asked how he felt concerning the proposed merger with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. This is what he wrote:

"I am strongly in favor of uniting with the Evangelical and Reformed denomination. The proposed "Basis of Union" appeals to me as fair and democratic. It will both preserve and combine the best traditions of both groups. No one denomination has the whole of Christianity in its keeping. We Congregationalists have something to give, and also something to learn. Let us welcome this opportunity to enlarge our household of faith. The things that unite us are the great truths of the gospel—the things that separate us are secondary and capable of reconciliation and adjustment. United, we shall form a much more influential and representative Christian body in American life than either of us can be alone—as strong in Pennsylvania as in New England, strong in the heart of cities like Chicago and St. Louis, and in their suburbs—a truly nation-wide and culturally comprehensive liberal Christian fellowship. God grant that we may all see this and let no minor differences defeat this great forward step in Christian unity."

Service Center

Congregational visitors in New York City are invited to see our new International Service Center at 110-112 E. 29th Street. There is room for a limited number of overnight guests. The use of the building is for everybody with priorities given to those in New York on denominational business and to international visitors. Write to Mrs. Ruth Berry at the above address for further information and reservations.

MERGER REPORTS

Reports thus far received from the churches which have voted on the union with the Evangelical and Reformed fellowship are listed herewith. Some churches have voted and not yet sent their official report. Many are voting during March. It is strongly urged that every church shall attend to this matter and send the returns before April 15. Official ballots are provided free of charge, from the Conference office.

	Approving	Disapproving
Alameda	66	5
Antioch	25	0
Berkeley, First	100	23
Cloverdale	19	0
Ferndale	17	0
Fowler	40	0
Fresno, First	130	3
Kenwood	23	1
Lodi, First	84	9
Oakland, First	133	7
Oakland, Plymouth	132	7
Orinda	54	1
**Palo Alto	54	51
Penngrove	18	0
Petaluma	30	2
Port Chicago	18	0
Salida	25	0
San Francisco, Park Presidio	45	2
San Francisco, First	61	6
San Mateo	127	0

**While a majority of the votes at Palo Alto were in the affirmative, the church decided that a two-thirds vote would be necessary for approval; hence, the church itself is counted as voting in the negative.

CONFERENCE GAINS

The annual reports from the churches for the new Congregational Year Book have been tabulated and forwarded to the General Council. They show some very significant gains during the year 1947. The total membership of the churches of the Conference showed a net increase of over 1,100, bringing the total to 25,924 with 300 fewer absentee members than a year ago. There were 2,735 new members, of which 1,293 were on confession of faith. Two hundred sixty-two were removed by death, 462 by letter, and 907 by revision of the rolls.

Again, church school enrollment has shown an increase from 11,014 to 13,458. The membership of young people's organizations has gained 330 and now stands at 3,782.

The February issue of The Pacific gave a good deal of space to the matter of missionary giving. By now it is possible to present something of the picture of the local church. The total for all of the churches of the Conference for 1947 for home expenses is $609,526 which is $70,000.00 greater than in 1946. Property values have been revised upward. There was spent for physical improvements $106,731, and more than $15,000.00 was paid on debts. The amount of debts has gone up with some improvements and new buildings and now stands at nearly $93,000. A number of our churches have invested funds, the total being a little over $500,000.00.

There are 149 Congregational ministers who are members of the Conference; 64 of them are pastors, 28 are retired, 5 are pastors emeritus, and 35 in other religious work. A number of our churches are cared for by licentiates and ministers of other denominations.

The Pacific

Established 1851

Entered as Second-Class Matter at the San Francisco Post Office

Subscriptions, 25 cents in advance

Published monthly (except July and August) by the Northern California Congregational Conference, 1164 Phelan Building, 760 Market Street, San Francisco, 2.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided in Section 1103, Act of October, 3, 1917, authorized September 11, 1937.

Address all communications and checks to THE PACIFIC, 1164 Phelan Building.

Rev. Harley H. Gill, Editor

Staff and offices of the Northern California Congregational Conference:

Main Conference Office:
Rev. Harley H. Gill, Superintendent, 1164 Phelan Building, San Francisco 2, Calif.

Extension office:
Rev. Sidney H. Buckham, Director of Extension Work, 101 Tamalpais Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

Christian Education and Pilgrim Fellowship office:
Rev. William W. Meyer, Director of Christian Education, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley 4, Calif.

Better Next Time

The calendar was against us this time. Churches were unable to get their full February remittance in to the office since the last day of the month was on Sunday; hence, the very large discrepancy in certain cases between the first two months of 1948 in comparison with the like period in 1947. March is the last month of the fiscal year of the Conference and the calendar is more favorable. There will be ample time after the last Sunday of March for churches to send their remittances to the office covering the full three months' period of the first quarter.

The Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction is off to a fine start due to heavy contributions from three of our important churches which have been in the habit of paying during the first part of the year the money raised at the Christmas season.

	Jan. 11 to Feb. 29, '47	Jan. 11 to Feb. 28, '48	C.W.V.R. 1948
Alameda	$ 240.51	$ 59.60	$ 18.50
Antioch	.....	.....	20.00
Auburn	28.00	40.00	10.00
Benicia	37.50	.....	.....
Berkeley, First	1,995.41	1,197.62	3,010.00
Berkeley, North	87.65	85.95	85.00
Berkeley, Northbrae	375.60	.....	.....
Berkeley, South	84.96	45.14	.....
Cloverdale	5.93	10.85	.....
Cotati	25.00	.....	.....
Crockett	36.06	.....	.....
Etna	6.90	.....	27.16
Eureka	91.44	49.69	32.93
Glen Ellen	20.00	.....	.....
Guerneville	9.50	.....	.....
Lodi, First	120.98	.....	.....
Martinez	45.45	43.45	.....
Niles	.....	50.00	.....
Oakland, First	888.00	880.00	1,027.60
Oakland, Japanese	.....	80.00	.....
Oakland, New Pilgrim	9.34	26.00	26.00
Oakland, Plymouth	177.21	179.53	53.75
Orinda	157.60	.....	.....
Oroville	72.00	183.60	122.40
Palo Alto	300 00	250 00	50.00
Paradise	122.00	150.00	.....
Penngrove	26.17	14.53	.....
Pescadero	10.00	.....	.....
Pittsburg	27.92	17.37	55.15
Port Chicago	.....	10.00	.....
Porterville	565.80	.....	.....
Redwood City	381.93	.....	.....
Rio Vista	25.00	.....	.....
Sacramento, First	257.50	.....	1,000.00
Salida	32.00	25.10	.....
San Carlos	70.00	100.00	.....
San Francisco Park Presidio	48.83	30.35	.....
Sanger	11.04	.....	.....
San Jose	105.00	105.00	.....
San Leandro	8.20	.....	.....
San Mateo	.....	250.00	20.00
San Rafael	66.00	10.00	.....
Santa Cruz	10.00	10.00	.....
Soquel	18.00	.....	.....
Stockton	237.25	105.76	82.25
Suisun	.....	.....	80.00
Tulare	120.88	.....	.....
Reno, Nevada	58.66	75.12	20.00
Miscellaneous	41.90	10.00	30.10
	$7,059.12	$4,094.66	$5,770.84

U. N. FILMS

The Conference Social Action Committee calls attention to film strips from the United Nations Organization. These will be available through the office of Rev. William W. Meyer, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley 4. They are as follows:

1. Aims of the U. N. Charter (19 frames)
2. The United Nations at Work (84 frames)
3. The Economic and Social Council (68 frames)
4. To serve All Mankind (Trusteeship Council) (66 frames)
5. Genocide — The Greater Crime (62 frames)

It is recommended that perhaps Nos. 1 and 2 be used as a unit as No. 1 is brief and is an excellent introduction to No. 2. Nos. 2 to 5 are accompanied by mimeographed speaker's script to identify and explain each frame. The use of these films is free.

TOWN AND COUNTRY

The fourth annual Conference on Town and Country Life, under the auspices of the Northern California-Western Nevada Council of Churches, will be held at the Community Church, Davis, California, from Monday to Thursday, March 29 to April 1. The Home Missions Council of North America and the University of California at Davis will cooperate. A strong faculty has been assembled. Registration will cost $1.00 and may be made at the office of the state Council of Churches, 220 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco. Cots will be furnished, those attending being asked to bring linens, pillows, and blankets. Meals will cost $1.00 each or six for $5.50.

BON VOYAGE

Miss Mary Coxhead will leave Oakland on Easter Sunday for New York, thence via the S. S. Queen Mary to England. She will visit Rev. and Mrs. Alan Balding, with whom she worked some years ago and who visited California last summer. She will then visit Scandinavia and return to England, and hopes to secure visas for Italy, Greece, and Poland. She will do some photographic work for the CWVR. She is expected to return in August.

Mr. C. S. Hull of Berkeley calls our attention to the fact that in the November issue of The Pacific the report of the resolution on Universal Military Training, adopted at the last annual meeting of the Conference, was inaccurate. The resolution as finally voted put us on record in opposition to universal military training **"in peace time"** only.

Bay Annual Meet

The annual meeting of the Bay Association was held at the First Congregational Church of Alameda on Tuesday, March 2. There was a splendid attendance for the dinner and the evening program. Rev. John Charles Mickle, Jr. of the South Berkeley Community Church led devotions. Miss Ruth I. Seabury of the American Board told of the important mission which she is to undertake for the next two years in Japan, where she is to be an adviser to Christian colleges and students. Rev. Gail Cleland, formerly pastor of the Alameda church, who has just returned from Korea with the American military government, told of the effort by the United States to establish a democratic regime in that country and the difficulties in bringing about an understanding with the Russians in their zone of occupation. Dr. Cleland does not believe that the case is hopeless, and that the solution of all of our relationships with Russia is the demonstration of the superiority of the democrtic way and a constant stream of evidences of goodwill from Christians of America to the people of other lands.

New officers for the year were elected. Rev. Byron Eshelman will be the moderator; Mrs. James H. Price, vice-moderator; and Rev. Huber Burr will continue as registrar. The Credentials Committee will consist of Rev. Holland F. Burr, Rev. Sidney H. Buckham, Prof. Ralph D. Hyslop, and Rev. Clarence Reidenbach. Mrs. R. A. Fuller, moderator, presided at the sessions.

Student Summer Service

Applications are being received for Student Summer Service from qualified young people ready to serve in rural or urban areas for an adventurous summer.

SSS workers of high school age must have had Church School leadership experience, and preferably special skill such as crafts or music. All in SSS will receive their expenses, but those of high school age receive no cash salary. SSS workers of college age (having finished at least one year of college) receive $50 per month plus expenses.

Training begins in Oakland, June 20, (although the first weekend may be spent at Student Camp at Cazadero), and period of service lasts until August 27 (allowing attendance at State P. F. Camp). Only in exceptional cases will any be accepted in SSS except for the full summer.

For additional details and application blanks write to Rev. William W. Meyer, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley 4, California.

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"For my part I find the world is good. It is a most reliable paymaster, whichever way you make your investment, and I am glad to be in it. Everything seems to have a purpose, and from that fact I deduce a purposer. The world seems reasonable, and therefore likely to end reasonably. The evolution of love, the development of intellect, the unceasing metabolism of the body, considered with the principle of the conservation of energy, always seemed to me to argue against the annihilation of personality. Some men hate the whole universe because they realize how brief the tenure of things they love in life is. But I am no pessimist. Knowing that I can only stay for a brief time alongside of what I call my property, I am still delighted with all I can get, enjoying immensely the use of it while I have it, and believing, as Christ teaches, that so-called death cannot rob me of spiritual friendships and assets. If I count what I can contribute to life, and not what I can get out of it, that of itself makes it worth while. The gauge is not what we have, but what we do with what we have.

"I am as sure that I am not my body as I am sure that I am not my house. But for all that, I know that I am I, and that I shall always continue to be so is sufficiently probable to satisfy me."

—From The Adventure of Life, by Sir Wilfred Grenfell.

Summer Camp Schedule

Here is the schedule of our summer camps at Cazadero with the names of the directors:

June 12-19—Central, Rev. Mary McKee Chester.

June 19-26—Student, Rev. G. Arthur Casaday.

June 26-July 3—East Bay, Rev. Richard C. Norberg.

July 3-10—Redwood-Upper Bay, Rev. James P. Senter.

July 10-17—West Bay, Rev. Benton S. Gaskell.

July 17-24—Junior, Mrs. H. Weldon Batty.

July 24-31—Family I, Rev. Henry C. Warber.

July 31-August 7—Family II, Rev. James H. Woodruff.

August 7-14—Family III, Rev. Elmo D. Wolfe.

August 14-21—Junior Hi I, Rev. George R. Tolson.

August 21-28—Junior Hi II, Rev. Terence Stoker.

August 28-September 4—State Pilgrim Fellowship, Rev. Eugene V. Haynes.

San Joaquin Area Camp, Rev. Clayton H. Gill, director, will probably be June 12-19 at Lake Sequoia.

Rev. Carroll M. Moon, secretary of the Fresno State College Religious Conference, is giving splendid leadership to the different religious movements on the campus, of which the Student Christian Association is one. A special assembly was arranged during Brotherhood Week, at which three students, representing the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant faiths, were speakers, and also three local pastors, Rabbi David L. Greenberg for the Jewish faith, Monsig. James C. Dowling for the Catholic Church, and Rev. John H. Gregg for the Protestants.

Extension Director Sidney H. Buckham and Superintendent Harley H. Gill spent the weekend of February 28 in Modoc County. Adin was visited regarding the proposal of the church to pay off its mortgage. A pleasant visit was had with Rev. and Mrs. William Moll Case of Alturas. Services were conducted at Cedarville and Eagleville. Plans were made for a visit by Rev. and Mrs. Clifford S. Higby, recently of Tombstone, Arizona, with the hope that arrangements might be made for them to undertake the pastorate in Surprise Valley.

The 26th annual Easter sunrise service on Mt. Davidson in San Francisco will begin at 6:00 a.m. Dr. Harold N. Geistweit of the Tenth Avenue Baptist Church, Oakland, will preach the sermon. Rev. James H. Woodruff, associate minister of the First Congregational Church of San Francisco, and the Rev. Ralph W. Bayless of the American Bible Society will participate.

OAKLAND, FIRST. Rev. Clarence Reidenbach conducted the installation of new officers of the Women's League. This League has received a bequest for missionary work. Dr. Robert T. Taylor of the American Bible Society was guest preacher on February 8.

RIPON. At long last this church is to have a parsonage. A splendid house has been purchased and is to be moved onto the church lot. On one Sunday morning the people pledged over $2000 for the project. Rev. I. Morse Dryer is pastor.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

EAGLEVILLE. This new church, with only 50 members, was host to the Pilgrim Fellowship rally of Modoc County on February 11 and 12. A total of more than 100 persons, including some adults, were present at the potluck supper and worship service, which followed, on the 11th. There were 68 in the friendship circle at midnight. On the following morning some of the visiting boys helped the local boys do their chores and then the whole crowd went on an historical journey, arranged by Mrs. Robert Minto, to a number of sites where there had taken place events of great interest in the early history of Surprise Valley and Modoc County. The young people went in large trucks in which there were straw, blankets, and hot bricks because of the cold. Rev. Terence Stoker, former pastor, and Mrs. Stoker returned from Reno for the occasion. Young people were present from Alturas, Lake City, and Cedarville, in addition to those from the local church.

SAN MATEO. Rev. Benton G. Gaskell has arranged a series of four Wednesday evening services of devotion and prayer, the last of which will be a candlelight communion service. His meditations will be on The Cross. The church had the largest delegation in attendance at the Berkeley Laymen's School of Churchmanship. Twelve persons were received into fellowship on the first Sunday of February. Twenty-one children were present for the opening session of The Pastor's Class. Mr. Lloyd Lorbeer of India was the speaker at the February town meeting.

SAN FRANCISCO, FIRST. Professor Buell G. Gallagher was the preacher for the month of February. During March, at the morning services, Rev. James H. Woodruff, associate minister, is occupying the pulpit. In the evening, Rev. Colin Dyster of Australia, Professor Ralph D. Hyslop of Pacific School of Religion, and Rev. J. W. Rahill, formerly of Port Huron, Michigan, are the speakers.

A new Sunday School was launched at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie R. Jackson, 355 Pacheco Street, Forrest Hill, on February 29.

PETALUMA. Various departments, societies, and the church itself contributed during 1947 more than $2,600 for purposes outside of the community. Miss Helen Kenyon was a visitor on February 26 as a speaker for the Service Club. Women from neighboring churches were invited and a number were present. Rev. Herbert C. Gans, the pastor, is the chairman of the Conference Committee on Evangelism and Devotional Life. It is expected that he will attend a meeting of all Conference chairmen in some city in the Midwest soon after Easter.

PALO ALTO. The annual reports of the church show that it is in its strongest condition in attendance, finance, and activities in the fifty years of its history. Attendance averages nearly 250. Three thriving groups were organized during the year, and the remodeling of the chancel was carried through and paid for. Visual aids are used each Sunday morning from the Kodachrome Cooperative library. Rev. G. Arthur Casaday is pastor.

SOQUEL. Preparations are being made for the celebration of the 80th anniversary of The Little White Church in the Vale. This celebration will be extended to July for the annual meeting of the Soquel Pioneer Club, many of whose members belong to families which were identified with the early history of the church. The hall has been completely renovated, including a new and larger kitchen with equipment, a new floor, and the relining of the walls. It is hoped the church will be painted and have a new roof. The finances of the church are in excellent shape. A complete public address system has been installed through which chimes are broadcast from the tower. This is supplemented by sound motion picture and slide projector equipment. It is possible to record the church's own set of chimes. The Easter evening service will be wire-recorded and synchronized with pictures for production at the service. Rev. T. Davis Preston is the pastor.

AUBURN. Superintendent and Mrs. Harley H. Gill, through the invitation of Rev. Lucius F. Reed, spent Sunday, February 15, with the church. The Postwar Emergency Program was presented at the morning service, and at a potluck supper in the evening the merger with the Evangelical and Reformed Church was discussed. The Sunday School has grown very decidedly, the choir presents excellent music, and the sanctuary is normally quite well filled for services of worship. The Pastor's Class is being conducted for young people in preparation for church membership.

FRESNO, FIRST. Rev. John H. Gregg, the pastor, has been elected president of the Community Chest of the city, which includes 15 agencies with a budget totaling nearly $350,000. At the annual meeting of the church, reports showed more than $48,000 raised for all church purposes during 1947. Seventy-three new members have been received, bringing the total up to 446 since the beginning of the present pastorate in September, 1941. Benevolence giving to causes outside the local church totalled more than $3000.

SAN FRANCISCO, PARK PRESIDIO. Dr. Alfred Fisk of San Francisco State College is teaching an adult class for a three months' period. Each Thursday evening there has been a parent-teacher round table in order to make for better undergirding of the church school. Church attendance is filling the sanctuary. Rev. Robert W. Moon is pastor.

FAIRFAX. A fine large communicants' class is meeting each week with the pastor, Mr. Frank K. McDowell. Young people and Sunday School children have conducted a campaign for a youth budget, which has had a fine response. The budget will be administered by a youth council.

LOOMIS. The ministry of Rev. Hendrik Martynse is starting off auspiciously. The church has voted to purchase an organ and committees have been at work in selecting the type. An old cabin on the rear of the church lot is being put in shape as a boys' workshop.

BERKELEY, NORTH. The World Service Committee, aided by young people's groups, have collected 2300 pounds of clothing and 135 pounds of food which were sent overseas through the Church World Service headquarters at Richmond. Also boxes of food and clothing have been sent to Japan, England, France and Holland, and 10 "CARE" boxes have been forwarded. Two hundred fifty-three dollars was given to a German Jewish refugee and her mother to assist in completing the daughter's education, and $740 was given to C.W.V.R., as well as meeting the goal of the regular apportionment of benevolences. The missionary funds have been oversubscribed by 35 percent for the new year, and the campaign is going forward for the C.W.V.R. giving for 1948. Working drawings have been completed for the new social and educational unit. Rev. Eugene V. Haynes is pastor.

SEBASTOPOL. Rev. Raymond Keeble has been called as pastor and will begin the Sunday after Easter. Mr. Keeble comes from the United Church of Canada, where he served in the Saskatchewan Conference. He has been taking special work at the Pacific School of Religion and conducting religious services at a housing project in Vallejo. He is married and has one son, three years of age. Rev. W. H. L. Marshall will continue his ad interim relationship until Mr. Keeble's arrival. The Marshalls plan on taking a two months' trip beginning April 1 through the south, visiting our Congregational institutions.

SAN FRANCISCO, OCEAN VIEW. The parish hall has been refinished most attractively and repairs to the walls have made it warm and comfortable. Three members were received on confession of faith during February. A great deal of interest is being found in the community in the project of a new church building on a new site. A fine group of men have been enlisted in doing volunteer work and are in regular attendance at services of worship. Rev. Joseph H. Bennett is pastor.

ORINDA: The new first unit of the church will be dedicated on April 18. The shell of the building was from the Naval Training Station at St. Mary's College. It has been moved and dressed up and presents a very nice appearance. It will furnish about 2300 square feet of space. Several significant memorials have been received, among them $1500 for an organ. The budget for the new year is one-third larger than for 1947. Forty-one new members were received during the previous year.

BERKELEY, SOUTH COMMUNITY. The Easter and Lenten offering will be shared with C.W.V.R. Attendance at midweek Lenten services has been good. Church membership now stands at 286, and Sunday School enrollment 125. Rev. J. C. Mickle, Jr., and Rev. Buell G. Gallagher are pastors.

PORT CHICAGO. Miss Helen Kenyon visited this church one Sunday during February. The building is being kept open during Lent for prayer. Rev. W. C. Besselievre is pastor.

LODI, FIRST. A 23-page book of reports was put in the hands of each member before the annual business meeting. Rev. A. R. Boone had made 500 calls during the year and received almost as many in his study. Besides the regular services of worship he had conducted 26 radio devotional hours. The vote on the merger was preceded by a panel discussion. Three classes led by the pastor are preparing for church membership. During January the church lost through death Mrs. Andrea Rinde, who for thirty years was the treasurer of this church. She was a remarkably devoted woman, and again and again by her own heroic efforts had brought the budget of the church through to a balance, had raised the missionary giving, and had secured funds for many special projects.

FRESNO, JAPANESE. Rev. and Mrs. George Aki have moved into the new little parsonage which is being enlarged to make it more adequate. This will give the church entirely new properties. Prior to the war, the church owned an old parsonage, an old church building, and an old school and dormitory building. These have all been disposed of, and a new site and chapel and a new parsonage have been secured, and without any indebtedness. Food and clothing are being sent regularly to Japan and to other areas through Church World Service. On a recent Sunday the church was guest of the Chinese Baptist Church, the Rev. George Aki preaching the sermon.

PORTERVILLE. The pastor, Rev. Wiliis L. Goldsmith, was able to get the backing of the Ministerial Union in bringing Charles A. Wells, noted cartoonist-journalist, to speak on "Christ and World Need" in a series of lectures, the first of which was for the annual Lincoln Day luncheon for men only. The Colonial Tea on February 21 featured an exhibit of antiques and appropriate musical program of a high order. A supper is being held every Wednesday night during Lent. The Easter offering will be for CWVR.

SAN LEANDRO, BROADMOOR. Forty-three new members were received during 1947 and the church school has an enrollment of 530. The women's society has provided beautiful new pulpit furniture and chimes have been added to the organ. A movie projector with screen have been installed for visual education purposes. Rev. James H. McCartney is the pastor.

MARTINEZ. With the 55 new members in 1947, the total at the end of the year was 414. Average attendance at morning worship was 149. Over $10,000 was raised, of which $2100 was for various benevolences. The Church Night fellowship in February was under the direction of the Social Relations Committee, with Rev. Amos R. Boone of Lodi as the speaker. Rev. Donald F. Gaylord is the pastor.

SONOMA. Each Sunday afternoon during March from 4:30 to 5:15 there is being held a March Musical Meditation with local and visiting soloists and organists. Rev. Joseph A. Todd, pastor, speaks briefly on themes appropriate to the Lenten Season.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

MRS. RALPH D. HYSLOP, Correspondent

ECHOES OF FEBRUARY MEETING

The Federation of Congregational Women held its opening meeting for the new year at First Church, Oakland, February 19. This meeting gave real proof that our churches are a "fellowship of the concerned," as Dr. Nels Ferre reminded us recently in his Earl Lectures at Berkeley. Our "concern" was also the emphasis brought back to us from the Mid-Winter Meetings at Grand Rapids. So we will think of the work of our women and our churches as presented to us at this meeting as the real concern of each of us. Or perhaps, as Mrs. H. S. Clewett phrased it in her worship service, we want to clean house at the beginning of the year, so that we look at the world around us through our newly washed windows of thoughtfulness, love and worship.

Our Concern Abroad

Brief highlights of our missionary work were presented by Mrs. Chester Marliave: **India**—The effort to bring the work under one united church has been completed with the able leadership of men like Bishop Newbegin. **Near East**—Arab mobs in Alleppo. Since the U. S. is considered responsible, the safety of the college is feared. International Children's Book Week, with 10,000 visitors. **China**—Rev. and Mrs. Malcolm White, who spoke to us before they went, sailed January 3 and have safely arrived. From Earle Ballou we learn that members coming into the Christian church are fully prepared for persecution. **Africa**—Storm and drought have severely hampered the work. **Micronesia**—Morning Star VI sailed from Honolulu January 13 and is now in home waters and eagerly awaited. We were told of an empty house, beautifully kept up and furnished by the natives, always in readiness for the return of the missionaries. **Japan**—Our missionaries are now just renewing their work, while the Catholic missionaries remained there and worked during the war. It is bitterly cold, with students wearing gloves and overcoats to classes and having recess for "jumping" to get warm. **Mexico** — Diamond Jubilee celebration. **Philippines**—Work weakened by illness of missionaries, especially at Davao.

Our Concern At Home

Mrs. Harley H. Gill gave a complete picture of the work of our Board of Home Missions, which was established as such in 1936, to coordinate seven of our agencies for strengthening and upbuilding of the churches in America. We are likely to forget the vast field covered by the Home Board. Some of the projects it promotes are: building extension, home missionary aid, student summer service, rural life centers, colleges, religious work among students, Pilgrim Fellowship, junior high and children's work, ministers' relief and pensions. Here in California the help of the Board goes to such things as student work at colleges like San Jose, Fresno, College of the Pacific, Davis, Reno, and University of California.

Our Concern In Social Action

Miss Mary Coxhead suggested we think, read, and know how we stand on the following issues:

Political candidates—don't believe just what we read in the papers, but read about them in good magazines.

Universal Military Training.

Marshall Plan—even if faulty it offers a way out for the European countries, and it is being stressed by our national Council for Social Action.

Postwar Emergency Program—still a long way to go, and to so many it means hope instead of despair.

The World Affairs Council of San Francisco will supply excellent speakers and pamphlets for your groups. Send a card to Miss Mary Coxhead, 3805 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland 11, for their address.

Our Concern In Action

Stewardship as a planned way of life was presented in a vivid talk by Mrs. Walter Giersbach, wife of the president of Pacific University, Oregon. As over against the materialistic philosophies of life, a true steward belongs to God and is concerned about people. This is a way of living that could solve the world's problems. In 20th century tithing we give as we have been blest, and so put it up to our conscience. Mrs. Giersbach has worked out a stewardship sheet in which she lists her time, talents, possessions, and the amount she can give and share. Copies of this will be available in March and may be obtained as a guide for your own planned living.

Mid-Winter Meetings

Mrs. Scott Haymond was the first to take us in spirit to the Mid-Winter Meetings held in Grand Rapids, Mich. The high points for her were: a real feeling that the Postwar Emergency Program would go over the top; her pride in California when Dr. Vere V. Loper spoke at the Missions Council meeting; the Pilgrim Fellowship "broadcast" which reported on the Oslo conference; and the idea in our work to "start where you are, work with what you have, and claim for Christ the consequences."

Mrs. E. B. Kientz followed with a clear and interesting account of the meetings to which she went. They presented the field and activities of our women's work secretaries, special emphasis for women's groups, such as study groups on missions and European Recovery, and the use of denominational material.

Literature

Mrs. Sanford Siegrist asked us to think of good books as good tools for good living, especially The Missinary Herald and Guide Posts. Suggested reading: "God in History"—Sherwood Eddy. This was ably reviewed at the meeting by Mrs. Paul M. Hancher. Some devotional books: "Meditations for Women," "They That Worship Him," "Opening Doors," "Doorways to Devotion," and "God in the Desert."

Postwar Emergency Program

Miss Helen Kenyon from the Board of Home Missions concluded the day's meeting with a forceful plea for seeing our program successfully accomplished by the end of the year, thinking of it not as a burden but a privilege to do it for the desperate needs of our new churches, so many of which have no buildings, or very inadequate ones. We are helping also the new missionaries, and how little we really know of the influence of each. And, finally, we will be training for Christian leadership in college, conference, and workshop, and thus carrying out the purpose of the Home Board to "promote the religious benefit of our nation." In Northern California we are asked to raise $46,000 for CWVR.

Dates To Remember

Thursday, March 18—Next meeting of the Federation.

Friday, April 2—Tea for Mrs. Harper Sibley, given by the San Francisco Council of Church Women at Calvary Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, at 2 p.m.

Friday, April 16—Spring meeting of Federation at Martinez.

BERKELEY, CHINESE. During January, the Wah Mei group, an interracial ladies organization, presented the church with over $500 for the building fund. New Pilgrim Hymnals are being purchased. It now appears that Dr. Hoh Yam-tong, the pastor, may be permitted to remain in the country for an indefinite period. However, he hopes in the not too distant future to return to China for important work, if conditions become more favorable.

ALTURAS. It is safe to say that never in the history of this town has such enthusiastic interest been seen in the work of any church than is manifested by the people under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. William Moll Case. The building well filled for services is not unusual. The choir has been invited to sing in neighboring towns. Lovely new gowns have been secured. The line between Baptists and Congregationalists in the membership has all but disappeared.

BERKELEY, FIRST. The average Sunday morning attendance during 1947 was 681. This is a higher figure than any year during the present pastorate. Each year the gain has been steady with the exception of the first year of gas rationing. Rev. J. Ford Forsyth has left for his new pastorate at Great Falls, Montana. On the first Sunday of February, 26 persons were received into fellowship. Rev. Vere V. Loper is pastor.

TULARE. Sermon subjects of Rev. Clayton H. Gill, the pastor, during Lent are: "The Rediscovery of God," "The Rediscovery of the Church," "The Rediscovery of Prayer," "The Rediscovery of Freedom," "The Rediscovery of Fellowship," "The Rediscovery of Jesus,' and "The Rediscovery of Life."

SAN LORENZO. Progress in reerecting the Navy chapel has been slow during February. Grading is being done and glass will soon be installed. The volunteer work crews who are doing the inside finishing have caught up with the contractor. Dedication day has not yet been fixed. Rev. Homer A. Schwarz is pastor.

SAN CARLOS. Rev. H. Weldon Batty, the pastor, will speak each Wednesday evening during Lent on some fundamental Christian beliefs. Mr. Lloyd L. Lorbeer was speaker at the Women's Guild on February 10. The church is bent on its effort to meet the challenge of the Building Society so that the new units may be undertaken shortly.

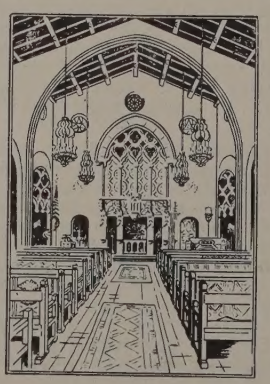
ALAMEDA. New slip covers have been installed on the choir chairs. Nursery chairs and tables and walls are being redecorated. The Knights Templar and Masonic bodies are to attend the early Easter service. Rev. Ralph V. Conard, the pastor, is using as service text during Lent, "The Seven Last Words."

OAKLAND, JAPANESE. Candles and pencils are being gathered and shipped to the Doshisha University in Japan. Rev. Norio Ozaki, the pastor, is participating in a pre-Easter interdenominational evangelistic campaign among Japanese churches. The Women's Fellowship is sending 20 Japanese Bibles to Japan with Miss Ruth Seabury.

SAN FRANCISCO, GRACE UNITED. On Laymen's Day, February 22, the first step was taken in the formation of a new men's group. On Palm Sunday a number of young folks will have finished their preparatory course for full-time membership. Rev. E. LeRoy Abbott is the pastor.

SACRAMENTO, PIONEER. Through the generous gift of one of the church families new floor covering has been provided for the hallways of the main floor of the parish house. At the January Communion, 24 persons were received into membership. Rev. Torrance Phelps is pastor.

EUREKA. Rev. and Mrs. James P. Senter led a question and answer forum on The Merger on a recent Sunday evening. The choir has a new director and is growing.



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